



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - January 6, 2003**

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather prevails, except for snow showers in the ***southern Rockies***. Although heavy precipitation has fallen across ***northern California and the Northwest*** in recent weeks, the remainder of the ***West*** continues to suffer from the effects of long-term drought.
- ***On the Plains***, weather patterns continue to be strongly influenced by El Niño. For example, cool, cloudy weather prevails across the ***southern half of the region***, where today's high temperatures will struggle to reach 40 degrees F, while warm, dry conditions persist on the ***northern High Plains***, where today's readings will approach 60 degrees F. Although the ***northern Plains***' mild weather favors overwintering wheat, the crop remains exposed to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow showers linger across ***eastern portions of the region***, while mild, dry weather continues to promote off-season fieldwork in the ***upper Midwest***. Portions of the ***western Corn Belt*** last received measurable precipitation nearly two months ago.
- ***In the South***, dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork, although below-normal temperatures are slowing evaporation rates from wet soils and flooded lowlands.

**Outlook:** A series of weak disturbances will maintain cool, unsettled weather across the ***Ohio Valley, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic region***, while a high-pressure system will bring dry, unseasonably mild conditions to much of the ***central and western U.S.*** This week's temperatures will average as much as 30 degrees F above normal across the ***northern and central Plains***, and anomalous warmth will spread eastward into the ***Corn Belt*** by mid-week. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 11-15 calls for below-normal precipitation across much of the nation, except for parts of the ***Southeast***, including ***Florida***, where above-normal precipitation is forecast. Below-normal temperatures are expected from the ***Mississippi Valley eastward to the Atlantic Coast***, while above-normal temperatures are forecast from the ***Plains westward to the Pacific Coast***.

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